

The DISPONAHONTAS Times.

If thou wouldest read a lesson that will keep thy heart from fainting and thy soul from sleep, Go to the woods and hills.—Longfellow.

Marlinton, Pocahontas County, West Virginia, March 31, 1904.

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Will visit Pocahontas county at least twice a year. The exact date of his visit will appear in this paper.

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ments; bonds, treasures, etc.

T. S. MCNEIL,

WOODS AND WATER.

STREAMS I HAVE FISHED.

Dry River.

This begins a series of fishing tales. It is to be understood that in a fishing story anything goes. Like one of Artemus Ward's lectures you may touch on anything except the subject in hand. If the reader expects this to read like a geographic survey he had better seek something more substantial.

In a fishing story what is more natural to inject into the story the thoughts that come to you between bites, and I have known that interval of time to be long enough to get up a sermon for a critical Scotch-Irish congregation.

In such intervals though, matters of great pith and moment have been worked out. Thomas Jefferson had worn himself to a frazzle wondering how he could put up a job on England. One day when the fishing was slow he thought of the Declaration of Independence, that great piece of rhetoric which is not to be pronounced without taking off your hat and is always to be spelled with capital letters. What it did for King George was a plenty. Daniel Webster has thought of ways to cheat the gallows while fishing, and Grover Cleveland has pondered on the affairs of the nation. Indeed he has tackled a graver problem: "How to elect a Democratic President, Bryan, Gorman and Hill being alive and objecting to success." It is thought that the early spring trout fishing will probably see it solved.

For once I have chosen a prolific subject. I have fished in some thirty odd streams and if each one of them furnishes a chapter the whole collection will make the First Reader look like thirty cents in New York City.

These memoirs will appear off and on during the twentieth century.

Dry River has been chosen for the opening chapter, as streams that deserves mention and for fear that it may be overlooked later on. This stream comes down from the Main Alleghany into the Valley of Virginia from the divide between Pendleton and Rockingham Counties. It is a bold, dash-
ing stream with the clearest water I have ever seen. The great clearness of the water is more remarkable in that the Valley of Virginia's streams are nearly all muddy, flowing as they do over muddy bottoms and through cultivated lands.

Dry River comes down by Raleigh Springs which was once a great summer resort. It is still a favorite summer place but the greater part of it burned down and has never been replaced.

The spring water is impregnated with iron. Liberty Springs is within a few miles and I once helped one of the proprietors of Liberty Springs to put a lot of old horse shoes in the head of that spring, so as to improve the water of Raleigh Springs.

In dry weather long stretches of the bed of the river become dry, hence its name. It is regarded as a very dangerous stream. Its forks are always changing and the clear water tempts travelers to cross in time of flood. Like the New River, it is dangerous to wash your feet in this stream, if you do you are in danger of being drowned. It has claimed a large number of victims.

It is an ideal trout stream. There are long swift rapids and deep blue pools. The trout run much larger than they do in the western waters. There is a tradition of a 31 inch trout having been caught in that stream which used to pull down young ducks and do more than property.

At one time a lot of salmon were turned loose in the waters and never heard of afterwards unless it was in the large size of the trout. It is thought that the sole for office will be denied the man who tries to keep the size of his family in reasonable bonds by resounding beneath the quick right story or not.

Reason that larger trout are slower

in Dry River than just across the line in Pendleton county.

My personal experience with Dry River is confined to one day's fishing in 1890. I had been brought up in a small town five miles from the stream, and had seen the river several times as a small boy, when I had gone there with the store keepers wagon that took chickens to Raleigh Springs during the season. The visitors were so well dressed that I was generally terror stricken and felt like Shakespeare's "rogue and peasant slave." I can see now that there was no occasion for any alarm.

I had moved to the western waters and when I went back I was a voter. The fact that I was a victim of the fishing habit was known to some anglomaniacs of my native town and they got up a party to fish one day on Dry River.

It was in April and the weather was warm and the trees were growing and the farmers working to get their corn in. We got a carryall and a big horse and struck out before daylight.

It was just about sun rise when we got to the stream. I had fished in a good many streams and some not unlike this clear foaming rapid. It struck me that the water was too high to get many fish in a corner, and after a mile or so walk up the stream, I went up a little creek that I found and by ten o'clock had caught seventeen mountain trout of fair size and I worked my way back to the river.

The river was too deep to wade and I went down to a suspension bridge below the ford, to cross. This is the bridge the summer guests used to crowd upon to see the mail carrier get drowned as he crossed the ford with the mail. Before that event happened however the bridge fell down with a lot of boarders on it one day and they were taken out of the water in all sorts of conditions. The mail carrier got drowned in the winter season when there was many boarder present to see him washed down.

I crossed this bridge as I started to say and found a nice pool in which the back water made an eddy. After long and patient trying I caught a big trout the largest of the day's catch. The main river yielded another of good size.

I then rejoined my companions as a visionary, I rode on and soon after met their battalion marching in good order but quite nearly at quick stepping rapidly and with but few lingering in the rear. The joyful mood of officers and privates was as much as if they were ready to say defiantly to the advancing foe, "Yankees catch us if you can." Some one called out as I met him, "Ain't you afraid of the Yanks?" "not much at this time." As I was passing the rear one hailed me and said, "Mister when you meet a straggler back there, tell him I say hurry up, we want him in the ranks." "Very well sir, I will do it."

When I met the stragglers they were making such good time that had it not been for my promise I would not have repeated the order, I was requested to deliver.

About this time Harry Lightfoot having cast a shoe stumbling over Crab Run rocks became quite lame but I had provided for emergencies by putting several pieces of horse-shoes in my saddle bag before starting.

Upon coming to Samuel Ralston's shop, I enquired whether the smith was about. A brisk looking boy soon told me that "Daddy had heard the Yanks were comin' agin, and had gone to the mounting to fetch out some cattle to drive off to Augusta 'fore the got here."

"How long will he be gone, do you suppose, my son?" "Well he may not be gone long and then again he may be gone a good while." "Do you think he will be at home any time this evening?" "O, yes sir, he will be home in a hour or two any how, he ain't going to stay longer than he can help that you may know." I they were right and were determined to go out to see if it was took the horse to the stable. In so and then send word to the soldiers to come back and they would hereafter stand between them and danger.

"Will you be so good as to tell me what it was. I have heard of several things!" "Well let us know what you may have furnished him and in a few moments tell whether you have heard the right story or not."

and rapid strokes of his hammer,

W. J. Bryan, Editor of The Commoner, is responsible for the assertion that in England house-keeping folks are taking out insurance against twins. He don't like the idea, believing it to be a wise indication of race suicide and the hope that the right of running trout. It is thought that the sole for office will be denied the man who tries to keep the size of his family in reasonable bonds by resounding beneath the quick right story or not.

At one time a lot of salmon were turned loose in the waters and never heard of afterwards unless it was in the large size of the trout. It is thought that the sole for office will be denied the man who tries to keep the size of his family in reasonable bonds by resounding beneath the quick right story or not.

THE STAMPEDE.

OF THE ARMY FROM ALLEGHENY TOP.

Caused by Aunt Yeager's Soap Boiling.

On the 3rd of November 1862 I set out from McDowell Va. to visit the old homestead at Marlinton where I had not been for going on two years, something never happening but once before.

Just before leaving, the Provost Marshal came to our room, which we jointly occupied with the dispatch from Monterey stating the Unionists from Beverly had camped the night before on Allegheny and were advancing in considerable force on Monterey and for him to hold himself ready to move at any moment when notified.

This startling intelligence was about to postpone the proposed visit and would have done so but for information from a refugee, a Mr. Somers from the North West, passing McDowell soon after the dispatch had been received.

This person stated that less than a week previously he had heard directly from Beverly that there were not more than

three regiments at that time and no indications of a forward movement and that he was perfectly

sure there were no federals nearer than Huttonsville at least.

Leaving this I mounted Harry

says in his politest term: "Mister,

where are you going to if it is a fair question?" "Over to Pocahontas," "Ain't you afraid?"

"No not much if big meetings be all they have out there to scare me with." In passing along I met several droves of cattle belonging to the government which the panic stricken drivers were pushing along almost at the top of their speed.

The cattle themselves seemed to have caught the spirit of their drivers and were trying to break away.

The drivers in front could scarcely keep from being run over at the front lots would try to rush forward

while the drivers in the rear seems to have like difficulty to keep their lots from breaking back when the front lots were

checked by blows, oaths and voice-cries, making a noise

and confusion scarcely imaginable and totally indescribable.

After passing the droves and turning off on a by way where I would not be likely to meet fugitives and droves, it was my pleasure to ride

along quite leisurely, enjoying the still silent and sombre beauty of the varied scenery that opened

before me as I made the ups and downs and followed the sinuous windings of that lonely mountain way.

About dusk I reined up for the night at the home of Mr.

B. B. Campbell, an old but cosy wooden mansion, nestled among

green meadows and in hearing of the sweetly murmuring stream whence the historic James traces its rise.

Here social cheer was to be enjoyed that must be experienced to realize what it was.

Several young persons called in during

the evening and seemed intent upon going out to the Allegheny

battle ground on a pleasure excursion in a few days.

The causes of the late alarm were freely discussed and several

jokes passed at the expense of

the cavalry and infantry so recently quartered at Monterey.

Some of the young ladies reported very positively that they

had learned the real cause of the panic, and were satisfied that

they were right and were determined to go out to see if it was

so and then send word to the soldiers to come back and they

would hereafter stand between them and danger.

"Will you be so good as to tell me what it was. I have heard

of several things!" "Well let us know what you may have

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